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T W O
E S S A Y S
S E N T I N A
L E T T E R from *Oxford*,
T O A
N o b l e m a n in *London.*



The First concerning some Errors about the Creation, General Flood, and the Peopling of the World. *In Two Parts.*

The Second concerning the Rise, Progress, and Destruction of Fables and Romances. With the State of Learning.

By *L. P. Master of Arts.*

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EXTRA 22

A N

APOLOGY

For Writing the

Following E S S A Y S.

My L O R D ,

TH E universal disposition of this Age is bent upon a Rational Religion ; the fierceness of Bigotry is in good measure calm'd and allay'd ; therefore I venture out upon this Pacifick Sea, hoping to reach my Port without any storm or hardship. Most Nations in Europe allow of a Liberty and Latitude in Natural Philosophy ; Copernicus, Galileo, Campanella, Mersennus, Gassendus,

A 2 Carte-

Cartesius, and many others, are not esteem'd the worse Christians, because they contradict the Scriptures in Physical or Mathematical Problems; the Sacred Writers spoke to a Generation of Men, who were never famous in Arts and Sciences; therefore they adapted all their sayings to the vulgar Idea's of that Time and Nation; their design being not to compose a Natural System of the World, but to establish the true Theocracy, and good Morals. What unjust Calumnies have been thrown upon the Worthy Master of the Charter-House, upon the account of his Theory of the Earth, and his Archæologia, (Pieces of admirable Workmanship) which his Enemies may be ashame of, as some were upon the discovery of the Antipodes and the New World?

The Philosophick History of the Bible, is not always to be embraced; for what an outcry against Mr. Hobson because

because he describ'd God Almighty as Corporeal, though Moles and the Scriptures had done so before him. Things are denominated Heresie and Atheism, not by any certain Rules of Truth, or Falshood, but according to the Caprice, or Interests of Sects and Parties: So the Christians were called Athei by the Pagans, because they did not Sacrifice, nor consult Oracles, nor Wor- ship Images: So one Nation calls another Barbarous, because different in Habit, Manners, Diet, and Ceremo- nies. The Philosophers of Athens stiled one another Hereticks, as they frequented such a School, or Academ- my; so in England we give Nick- Names, according to the Company we keep, or the Books we read, or as we va- ry in our Dreams, or Idea's, or in our Designs. Non omnes, probè no- sti, veritatem metiuntur aut esti- mant rationum pondere & momen- tis, sed affectibus abrepti aut pre- judicijs

judicijs occæcati, quasi clausis Oculis, de rerum coloribus decernunt. Sæpe etiam ad concitandam invidiam Authoris mentem aut verba in alienas partes detorquent. Hæc Signa homines solent variè interpretari, & trahere ad sua vota, aut spes, aut metus.

So, My Lord, I will conclude this Apology, which I thought necessary to premise in order to level the way to a fair reception and interpretation of these Essays, which come from one, whom your Lordship knows to be well affected to the Church of England, and not in the least tinctur'd with Atheism; a crime unjustly charg'd upon many excellent Men, who have a more than ordinary Zeal and Veneration for the Supreme, All-Wise, and All-Powerful Being. I have Travell'd many Countries, yet could never meet with any Atheists, which are few, if any; all the noise and clamour

(v)

clamour is against Castles in the Air ; a
sort of War, like that of Don Quixotte,
with the Windmills. So I take my leave,
and farewell ; being,

My L O R D,

Your Lordship's

Most Devoted Servant,

L. P.

T H E

(v. 2)

وَمِنْهُمْ مَنْ يَرْجُو
أَنْ يُؤْخَذُ عَلَيْهِ أَثْرَارٌ فَلَا يُؤْخَذُ
عَلَيْهِ أَثْرَارٌ وَمَنْ يَرْجُوا
أَنْ يُغَنَّى مِنْ أَنْفُسِهِ فَلَا يُغَنَّى

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THE FIRST

ESSAY,

CONCERNING

Some Errors about the First Creation, General Flood, and the Peopling of the World.

In Two Parts.

First PART.

TH E common History of the first *Chaos*, of the Universal *Deluge*, and of the Peopling of the Old and New *World*, is so well known to every body, that any Account of them in this place will seem unnecessary; especially to you who has read so many excellent Writers upon them, as

Judge Hales of the *Origination of Mankind*; Dr. Burnet's most ingenious Theory; Mr. Ray's Three Physico-Theological Discourses, &c. Therefore I will confine myself, in this short Essay, to a plain Examination of matter of Fact, as it stands in Nature, and as it appears to our Senses; which, I know, will please you best, who long ago began to deride *Hypotheses*, and monstrous *Traditions*, invented and instill'd in *Cells*, in Nurseries, or in Schools, the fountains of *Mythology*; which hath in all Ages infected the purity of Nature with *Fables*, *Chimera's*, and *Romances*; and even to that degree, that God Almighty himself (Blessed for ever) must be made use of upon all occasions to invert and confound his own settled Order of Causes, and to commit absurdities in Nature, either to make good an uncertain Tradition, or to corroborate a vain Fancy. *Non sunt iij aut scientia
aut Arte divini, sed superstitiosi vates, impudentiisque Harioli, aut inertes aut insani,
aut quibus Egestas imperat; Qui sibi
semitam non sapiunt, alteri monstrant Viam.*
Cicero de Divinatio.

But to come close to the Point: We have been told of old, That at the first Creation

Creation all was mingled in a fluid *Chaos*; and that in process of time there came on gradual Separations, Sediments, and that concreted *Mass*, which we now call the *World*. This made some great *Philosophers* * conclude, That the Shells, ^{See} Teeth, and other Bones of Fishes, were <sup>Mr. Ray's
Three Physico-Theol.</sup> embowell'd in the Beds, or Strata of the Earth, upon the gradual, or leisurely <sup>Discourses,
&c.</sup> preparation, or draining of the Waters after the First *Creation*. We have also been assur'd, that these Shells, and Bones, and Plants, were dispersed all the Earth over, and lodged deep in its Bowels, in Beds, or Strata, at the Universal *Deluge* †: But how far either of these Opinions, or Hypotheses, will stand an ordinary Test, you will soon judge, after your wonted manner, Physically, Mechanically, Experimentally; for I know you rely no further upon *Authority*, than as it is agreeable to common Sense, or to the ordinary *Providence* of God Almighty.

The most rational way to examine these *Problems*, is by the Laws of *Gravity*, or by the *Hydrostaticks*; because the Controversie is about the descent of *Solids* in *Fluids*; in the managing of

which there is no need of any extraordinary or Miraculous intervention of the first *Infinite Cause*, the principles and rules being originally established by it; and though we may grant that the first *Chaos* and the universal *Flood* might be miraculously brought about; yet there is no colour for thinking that the Hand of God would confound it's own *Laws* (~~where there was no manner of necessity~~) in forming and reforming the *Machine* we call the *Universe*; especially in the *Phænomena of Gravity*, for settling this *Terraqueous Globe* of ours, in the Figure and Texture we now behold it.

Suppose then all the *Solids* dissolv'd, or intermixt, floating and subsiding in the great *Fluid* of the *Chaos*, or in the vast *Abyss* of the *Deluge*; the most ponderous must subside first, deepest, or nearest the Center; and the rest according to their several respective weights, or specifick gravities must take their places in this new *Bed*, or *Mass* of *Sediments*. The *Metals* would be the lowest, the rest of the *Fossils* above them, the *Abyss* of Water above these, and so on to the *Animal* and *Vegetable Bodies*; which could not *Statically* subside with parts heavier in Bulk, or in Specie. But

But let us view these *Layers*, or *Strata* of the *Globe*, as far as they appear to our Senses. The *Metals* are often at the top, *Beds of Marble* near the superficies, *Vegetables*, *Testaceous* and other *Animal-like Bodies* lower still ; and the *Abyss*, or sphere of Water said to be lowest of all ; an odd face of *Sediments*, a fantastical descent of *Solids* in a *Fluid* ; neither Natural, nor Preternatural, nor Supernatural, without Design, or any End.

Besides, the same Shells, and Marine-like Bodies, are not only found deep in *Beds of Earth and Stone*, of different specifick Gravity ; but also on the very superficies of the Earth it self, as *Cockles*, and *Cornu Ammonis* (the most ponderous) under which are several *Layers* of Earth lighter than they ; if the latter (*viz. Cornu Ammonis*) is any Species of *Testaceous Animal*, it is either not extant at this day, or else lies deep in the bottom of the Sea remote from the Shoars ; where 'tis hard to conceive *Broods* of such Shell-fish, where there is such want of Air, of Food, and such a mighty pressure of Water, sufficient to squeeze and break much firmer Bodies.

But

But perhaps the Water might be so kind as to dissever*, or take to pieces the *Adamantine Rocks*, *Porphyry*, and *Talc* (insuperable to fire, and to most Inventions of Art) and to preserve at the same time her brittle Shells, and the tender Plants entire and whole, whilst the stubborn Masses of *Fossils* was forc'd to yeild and lye dissolv'd in a furious *Abyss*; this may pass with *Romantick Readers*, but scarce with any sound or thinking *Philosophers*.

'Tis hard to conceive how Leaves, and light Shells should fall in *Equilibrio* with the much heavier parts of *Marbles*, *Minerals*, and other *Fossils*, and be embodied with them in the same Beds, Layers, or *Strata*, by the Principles of the same specifick *Gravity*, whose *Laws* are certain and constant. Crab's and Lobster's claws, and all light Shells whatsoever, are said very seldom to occur upon Land; because being left on the surface of the Earth after the *Deluge*, and so expos'd to the Air, and other accidents, they were rotted and destroyed (*Dr. Woodward in his Essay*). To which 'tis answered, That the lightest Shells on our Shoars, are the *Echini*; yet the *Echinites* of divers kinds or sorts (with respect

* See Dr. Woodward's late *Essay*.

respect to the number of Shells on our British Coasts) are the most common *Fossil Shells*, or *Shell-stones* of *England*, and they are often found at the depth of at least Three or Four Fathom, and that under Rocks of solid Stone; and as for joints of *Crab's Claws*, they have been found lodged about Six Fathom deep, upon the sinking of a Well.

Coral, and the *Astroites Undulatus*, or the *Sea-Mushroom*, are sometimes found sticking to these supposed *Anti-deluvian Shells*. Which is an Argument that the whole *Mineral Kingdom* (of which these are properly *Members*) was not dissolv'd in the *Hodg-Podg*, or *Pudding* of the *Deluge*.

The *Author of the Late Essay* censures Dr. *Burnet* for broaching and vending Opinions contrary to the sense of *Scripture*; yet he himself will be found to contradict the *History of Moses*: For whereas he gathers from his *Anti-deluvian Plants*, that the Earth was not only totally drowned, but also dissolved sometime betwixt the 17th of *May*, and the end of the same Month; *Moses* tells us the Waters prevailed (*i.e.* as I understand it, the Flood increased) for 150 days, ere the *Fountains of the Deep* were shut

shut up ; nor was it necessary, in case the *World* was dissolved in a Fortnight's space, that it should Rain 40 days and 40 nights for the drowning of it. But 'tis no wonder to see *Physical Theorists*, and *Hypothetical Speculators*, grope and stumble in the dark, as soon as they begin to desert the day-light of Sense, and to float out of all depth.

Upon enquiries made into the bottom of the Sea by *Divers*, and *Navigators*, it appears to consist of inequalities of *Rocks*, *Mountains*, *Valleys*, *Beds of Sand* and *Earth*, of *Fossils* and *Plants*, though of different kinds from those at *Land*. In this Aqueous part of the *Globe*, the Water is uppermost, whereas in the other 'tis lowermost ; an Argument that the manner of the subsiding (or descent in the general *Fluid* at the *Chaos*, or *Flood*) of *Solid Bodies*, was quite different in these two parts of the *Globe*, and therefore not proceeding from the same Causes or Principles ; whereas Nature is uniform in all her parts, and *Providence* Beautiful in her Symmetry.

To conclude therefore the First Part of this *Essay* ; I cannot but continue in my old Opinion, That the *World* was thus form'd from the Beginning, no total *Dissolution*,

Dissolution, nor any universal *Inundation*: Some particular great Changes have happened, as new Mountains by turning up of the Earth; some new *Islands*, especially at the Mouths of great Rivers, by their Sediments of Earth brought down from the Land; some new Lakes by *Earthquakes*, and some other Mutations from particular *Floods*, or *Vulcano's*; though a late Author will scarce allow of any of these sorts *; nothing but a *General Dissolution of the whole Terrestrial Globe* ^{Dr. Woodward in his Essay.} will go down with him; the smaller Changes by *Earthquakes* not passing current; though *History* and the Observations of Sense make for the latter, and only Dreams and Phantomes for the former.

All these Marine-like Bodies digg'd out of the Bowels of the Earth, may, with more appearance of Reason, be peculiar sorts of *Fossils*, (as an *Ingenious Writer supposes* †) or Natives, or Original Creatures of the Earth, (call them what you please) rather than Strangers, brought in by I know not what barbarous *Inundations*, and universal Dissolutions, and settled there by I know not what Laws, or Force, or Power; I am confident not by any

Divine Appointment, for that acts more regularly, and more discretely.

I would gladly know why these *Shell-like Bodies*, or *Plant-like Substances*, may not be Congenial to the Earth. Plants will propagate on Land, and in Water, without any visible or manifest Seed; Shells will shoot, or grow in the Glands of Animals; and Insects may sometimes breed without Animal Parents, or Eggs, or Seed; therefore why not *Testaceous-like Substances*, or Shells themselves in Beds of Earth, or Stone, where they are found; rather than be brought and laid there by *Fairies*, or *invisible Agents*, that must turn Heaven and Earth up to make way for those *Toys*, and preserve them Miraculously in their *Voyage* thither?

Thus have I done with this *Problem*. If you please to study and know it perfectly, you must consult many Authors: As,

Fab. Columna de Purpur. & Glassopertris, with *Dan. Major his Notes*. 4^o *Kiliae*. 1675.

Hook's Micrography, and *Lectures upon Spring*.

Steno's

Steno's Prodromus. Lat. and Eng. 8^{vo}.

Steno de Cane Carcharia & Glossopetris. 8^{vo}.

Ray's Topograph. Observations made in a Journey, &c. 8^{vo}. From p. 113. to p. 131.

Ray's Three Physico-Theological Discourses, &c. 8^{vo}. Second Edition, 1693.

Grandius and Qairinus de Diluvio Universalis à Testaceis Fossilibus. Venet. 1676. 4^{to}.

Agostino Scilla Lettera circa i Corpi Marinii Petrificati. 4^{to} Con molte Figur. Napoli, 1670. As quoted by Mr. Ray, the Book being unknown to me.

P. Boccone in his Recherches & Observ. Nat. 8^{vo}. 1674.

Dr. Plot's Natur. Histor. of Oxfordshire. Fol.

Dr. Lister in Philosoph. Transact. and de Coclitis.

Dr. Woodward in his Essay toward a Natural History of the Earth. 8^{vo}. 1695.

All the foregoing Authors, except Dr. Lister, and Dr. Plot, stretch hard to fetch these *Land Shells* from the bottom of the Sea to the tops of Mountains, and into the deep entrails of the Earth, by the means of a Chaos, a Deluge, or Earth-

quakes; but all of them in different ways, and with what success, I think, I have made clear.

But now we are upon this Subject, let us discourse a little with the *Author* of the late *Essay toward a Natural History of the Earth: Who says*, p. 108. That the Teeth, Bones, and other Parts of Animal Bodies, as also the Trunks, Roots, and other Parts of Vegetables, were not dissolv'd in the Deluge, as all the Fossils and Solids of the Earth were. Now if these Vegetable and Animal Parts of the Land floated entire and whole, Why do not we find greater quantities of them under ground? The *Anti-diluvian* Trees, and especially the Bones of Terrestrial living Creatures, would be more plentifully buried, or embodied under ground, than the remote Spoils of the Sea, which in some places must have Travelled Two or Three thousand Miles to get into their Land-Beds, and that too in a very short space: The *Author* (*Dr. Woodward in his Essay*) allowing but some time in the Month of *May*, for bringing about this mighty *Universal Change*; which if so quick, how will he bring together into one place so many distant and different Animals some thousands

lands of Miles over both Sea and Land? And the *Author* will have a pretty piece of work to convey all these *Species* of living Creatures back again to their respective *Continents* and *Islands*, unless he keeps in Store all his Carriages, his Pontons, his Magazines, his Transport-Ships, and other Necessaries for long Marches and Navigations.

I thought to have proceeded in an examination of his great *Abyss* of Waters, and his Subterraneous Fire over them; as also of his Origin of Springs, Rivers, Vapours and Rain, and of his manner of forming Metals; but I refer those Parts to abler Pens, who understand Distillation, the Calculation and Motions of Fluids, the Generation and Growth of Metals and other Fossils: However, I will touch a little upon the manner of stocking his New *Globe* a Second time, after his great beloved *Catastrophe*; which he extends to all the Regions of *Asia*, *Africa*, *Europe*, and *America*, tho only Part of *Mesopotomia* and *Syria* were Inhabited by the *Anti-diluvians*, upon whose account he will have this Universal Dissolution of the whole *Globe* of Earth to be brought on; which is not agreeable to the usual methods of *Providence*,

vidence, nor to the Wisdom of the *Divine Nature*; for what design could there be in destroying all the innocent dumb Creatures, and the Beauty of the Creation, in the Uninhabited Parts (which were above a Hundred to One, in respect of those Planted by the *Anti-diluvian People*) for the sake only of a few Wanton and Luxurious *Asiaticks*, who might have been drown'd by a *Topical Flood*, or by a particular Deluge, without involving all the Bowels of the whole Mass, and the remote Creatures upon the face of the Earth, in their Ruin.

THE
SECOND PART
OF THE
First ESSAY:
CONCERNING

The Peopling and Planting the
New World, and other remote
Countries.

THE Design of this Second Part,
is not to calumniate, or diminish
the Authority of *Moses*, who, without
dispute, was one of the Greatest and
Wiseſt *Legislators* that ever appear'd in
the World, not excepting *Solon*, or *Ly-
cargus*, or *Numa*. He brought a wan-
dering Idolatrous Nation, to the Worship
of One True God, and eſtablished many
Excellent Laws amongst them: He
adapted his *History* of the *Creation* and
Deluge to their Capacities; and there-
fore it can be no Crime in one, who is no
Jew,

Jew, to Comment a little upon some parts of it, with a Christian p'ainness, and a Philosophical Liberty, founded upon Nature her self.

The *West-Indies*, and the vast *Regions* lately discovered towards the *South*, abound with such variety of Inhabitants, and New Animals, not known or ever seen in *Asia*, *Africa*, or *Europe*, that the *Origine* of them doth not appear so clear as some late *Writers* pretend; especially seeing there are no *Records* or *Monuments* of their *Transmigrations* out of *Asia*, or any other known parts of the *World*, either before or after the *Flood*; and their differences from all the rest of the *Globe*, in Manners, Languages, Habits, Re'igions, Diet, Arts, and Customs, as well as in their Quadrupeds, Birds, Serpents, and Insects, render their Derivation very obscure, and their *Origine* uncertain, especially in the common way, and according to the vulgar Opinions of Planting all the Earth from one little Spot.

The great Zeal to maintain a *Jewifb Tradition*, put many Learned *Christians* upon the rack to make it out. Every corner is search'd to find out a Word, a Rite

Rite, or a Custom, in order to derive from thence many Millions of different People. Some will have *Norway*, others *Tartary* and *China*, or some *Western Parts of Africa*; to be the Source and Seminary of Creatures, unknown and strange to those Climates. The *Welchmen* are not wanting in their *Chimera's* of Peopling *Mexico* with their *Colonies*; and perhaps they have better Authority than any can be produc'd for the rest. The *Spaniards*, because they found some Sticks and pieces of Wood laid Cross-ways, would needs have the *Indians* to be of *Spanish Extraction*. The *Jews* fancied the *Americans* to be Circumcis'd (their Prepuces being only eaten with the Pox) and therefore would have them to be of *Jewish Race*: But we will examine the chief of these Opinions with brevity and perspicuity.

From *Norway* the Navigation is very difficult, even to our New strong built Ships; the vast *Islands* of *Ice*, and the Weather in those Seas must have been invincible to the little Boats or Vessels of those days; and the Journeys over Land through *Greenland* are impracticable by reason of the Mountains and Rocks of *Ice* and *Snow*; besides there is a great difference in the Colour, Numbers, in

the Customis, and Mechanicks of the Natives of *Canada*, *New England*, *Virginia*, &c. and of the *Norwegians*; no foot-steps of *Christianity* to be found amongst the Northern Indians, which are said to Transmigrate in the Ninth or Tenth Century. All Nations agree in some Words, and in some Customs; therefore a resemblance in a few of them is no proof. But further, *John de Laet* assures us, That with great diligence he found a *Mexican Dictionary*, but could not observe any Words to agree with any European Language. Besides, many *Writers* who resided a long time in the *West-Indies*, affirm, that there are so many different Languages and Dialects in the same Kingdom, that one Province doth not understand another, even in *Peru* and *Brasil*; and along the banks of the single River of *Amazons* there are above One hundred and sixty different Tongues and Nations, compos'd of infinite numbers of various People; so that this Country, with *Peru* and *Mexico*, might contend with any in *Asia*, not only in their Inhabitants, but in their Manufactures, and Mechanicks, as well as in their Civil Governments; and they might with the same reason boast of their giving

giving Birth to us , as we to them.

The Origine of most , if not of all Nations, is wrapt up in fabulous Traditions ; Records and Monuments are of late dates ; and when we offer at the beginnings of things, we are swallowed up and lost in the darkness and depth of time. Arts, Inventions, and many other things might be lost in the Universal Devastations of Countries, and sometimes reviv'd again in Revolutions.

The Passage from *Tartary* into *America*, is as obscure as that from *Norway*, and the same difficulties lye against it ; the stretching of the *Tartarian Capes* are unknown ; but if they should be join'd to the back of *Northern America* , the Journey would be very dangerous (if not impossible) to *Colonies*. The *Tartars* abound more with Horses than all the World besides , and cannot subsist without them ; therefore it is very improbable they should swarm into *America* on foot (when they ride in all other parts) and their Offspring should be so affrighted with the sight of a *Spanish Horse*, that a 1000 *Tartar-Indians* should run away from a single Mounted *Cavaller*. The Land in *Tartary*, said to be the high Road for this Transmigration

out of the Old into the New World, runs further North than *Nova Zembla*, or *Greenland*; and how the Animals, that cannot endure the extremity of Cold, should climb over inaccessible Mountains of Ice and Snow for many Thousands of Miles together, is hardly explicable to any thinking man; and that those Creatures, that live in the Frozen Continent, should not be able to Travel along with tender Strangers, and delicate Passengers, is scarce credible; Horses, Ermines, and Sables (that abound in *Tartary*) might have found a way much more easily than *Indian Creatures*. A man must press hard to strain *Brazil*, *Peru*, and *Mexico*, through frozen Seas, or congeal'd Deserts, made up of Snow from the beginning, and cover'd with Night for half the year.

Neither is it probable that either *Norwegians*, *Laplanders*, *Muscovites*, *Tartars*, or the People of *Jesse*, should carry along with them Ravenous Beasts, or Venomous Serpents, or such Animals, as never flock into their Countries, as *Lyons*, *Tygers*, *Alligators*, *Monkeys*, *Apis*, *Parrots*, &c.

Navigations from China through the South Sea to America, are impossible to the

the *Junks* of that Kingdom, which cannot carry Provisions for long Voyages ; besides, the *Northern Parts of the South Seas* are too high for them, and the Trade-winds always contrary at *East* in the *Latitudes of Peru and Mexico*. The Compass (necessary in such sorts of Sailing by long Sea) could not be known to the *Chineses* in those Ages ; besides, the Language of *China* consists all of *Mono-syllables*, whereas those of *Mexico* and *Peru* have many. The *Indians* knew nothing of Style, Pen, Ink, Paper, or any manner of Writing (so common in the *East*) but reckoned the Antiquity of Time by strung Beads, Knots, and Pebbles : They had neither Bellows, Saws, nor Nails, though plenty of Iron Oar in the Country ; but they knew not the way of separating, so long practised in the *Old World*, before their traditional passage out of it.

From the *Western Coasts of Africa*, the Sailing is more easy, but then the Natives are most *Negroes*, or much blacker than the *Americans*, who have long Hair, little or no Beards, and are of an Olive Colour.

But to come closer to the matter ; the *Americans* had neither Horse, nor our sort

sort of Cow, Sheep, nor our barking Dogs, nor knew the use of Iron: 'Tis wonderful they should carry so many fierce and destructive Creatures along with them, and leave the mild and useful ones behind; but more wonderful they should exhaust the *Old World* of many *Species of Animals*, never found in it since (nor perhaps before) their generally-believed *Transmigration*.

'Twill be hard to make any man (moderately vers'd in the History of Nature) confess, that the *Pacos*, or *Grama* of *Peru*, or that the *Manati* (a biped Animal) or many other Creatures peculiar to the *West-Indies*, should Travel from *Asia* (where they never were observ'd to exist) by I know not what ways into a strange World, and all to support an Old *Jewish Tradition*.

"Tis unaccountable that the Four-footed Beast, commonly called the *Iguana* or *Sluggard* (that lives most upon Trees, and cannot march above Forty or Sixty Yards in a day) should get into *America* from *Asia*, where no man ever saw it; and that neither *Facals* nor *Musk Deer* (nimble vagabond Creatures) nor *Rhinocerots*, nor *Elephants*, nor *Camels* (Itinerant Animals) should ever slip

slip over into the New World by the same paths or ways that the others went, which have left none of their Kind behind them.

But then suppose that *America* was stock'd some time or other (in the days of *King Arthur*) from *Norway, Tartary, China, Land of Jesse, or Africa*; yet how came those Myriads of People and new Animals (perhaps strangers not only to the *Old World*, but to the *New it self*) into those immense Countries, *South-West* and *South-East* of *America*, discovered more lately by *Ferdinando Quir, Van Diemen, Tasman, and others*? The *Indian Canoes* could not transport them over such boisterous long Seas; and the *Lands* about the *Straits of Magellan* are so desart, that they could not afford such mighty Colonies; neither can we fetch them from the Capes of *Africa* or *Asia*.

I see no way at present to solve this new face of *Nature* by old Arguments fetch'd from *Eastern Rubbish, or Rabbinical Weeds*, unless some *New Philosopher* starts up with a fresh System; in the mean time let them all be *Aborigines*.

Some object, that *America* in former times was join'd to *Asia* and *Europe* by large necks of Land of easy passage, which

which were afterwards broke off by Earthquakes, Storms, or Inundations; but this is begging of the Question without any manner of proof; suppose the fact was so, yet it gives no tolerable account why the *Animals* of the *New World* should differ in *Specie* from those of the *Old*; and the *Americans* themselves may with the same probability affirm, that they planted *Asia* by these ways, seeing they were equally, if not more populous, and excelling in Morality, and Mechanick Arts: For the first *Spanish Writers* tell us, they were amaz'd at the fineness and contrivances of the *Indian Works*, especially their Artificers in Golden and Silver Wares, their Spinnings, and Weavings, and Joinery, &c. for which *Benzo*, and *Garcilasso de la Vega* may be consulted.

But we will give all the rope and scope imaginable to the *Mosaick History* of *Adam's* calling all the *Animals* together, and naming them, and afterwards *Noah's* taking every *Species* of them into the *Ark* to preserve them in the *Deluge*; yet their dispersion into *America*, and the *Terra Australis* by unknown passages, will scarce solve the difficulties in stocking the remote *Islands* with men and other living *Creatures* above a Thousand Leagues

Leagues distant from any Land, as the *Azores*, *Bermuda's*, the *Isles of the South Sea*, &c. most of which abound with Natives, Quadrupeds, Birds, and Insects, different in Specie from those of the next Continents, or *Terra Firma*.

A Learned Writer urges, That the *Americans* could be of no long standing there, because the *Mexicans* and *Peruvians* could give no account of their being there above a Thousand Years before the *Spanish Invasion*, which is a very strong argument against himself, considering they had not the use of Letters (which methinks they might have brought with them from the *Old World*) nor *Cyphers*, nor any way of Registering, but by Beads, or Stones. Besides, several *European Nations* can give no account of themselves for the first Four Thousand Years; What know we of *Britain* before *Julius Cesar*? or of *Greece* it self before the *Trojan War*?

I am not ignorant that some late *Philosophers* will have the *New Animals* in *America*, either to be Generated equivocally there, or else to proceed from various mixtures of *Animals* sent from hence; but this *Hypothesis* is of dangerous consequence, even to our own

History of the Old World, and may even the *Mosaick System* here at home; for if there are equivocal Generations (especially in the most perfect Kinds) or new Species produced every day, What need of a settled uniform Creation, and such a distinct Number of every Species of *Animals in Paradise*, or in *Noah's Ark*? But besides, equivocal Generations do not only tend to *Atheism*, but are evidently exploded by demonstrative Experiments; and as to promiscuous Generations (commonly call'd *Hebridous*) between distinct Kinds, they can never Propagate, as we see in *Mules*, &c. and 'tis easily prov'd that there can be no Propagation of any new Species, but that the Number of Creatures, as to their Kinds, have always been the same from the Beginning.

As many difficulties lye against the *Mosaick System* of confining all Species of living Terrestrial Creatures within the *Asiatick* or Primæval Paradise, and afterwards to *Noah's Ark*; so more seem to arise against the Propagation of all *Mankind* out of one Single Male and Female, unless all Posterity, both *Blacks* and *Whites*, separated by vast Seas, were all included actually in form within *Adam and Eve*.

The

The Origin of *Negroes* lies very obscure, for time out of mind there hath been *Blacks* with a Woolly substance on their Bodies instead of Hair, because they are mentioned in the most Ancient Records now extant in the World. 'Tis plain their Colour and Wool are Innate, or Seminal from their first beginning, and seems to be a Specifick Character, which neither the Sun, nor any Curse from *Cham* could imprint upon them.

Not the First, because many other *Nations* living under the same *Climates* and Heats, are never *Black*, as the *Abyssines*, the *Siamites*, the *Brasilians*, *Peruvians*, &c. neither will any *White* ever become a *Black* in *Guinea*, *Congo*, or *Angola*, though born there; neither will any *Negroes* produce *Whites* in *Virginia*, or *New England*. The Textures of their Skins, and Blood, differ from those of *Whites*.

Not the Latter: For what Curse is change of Colour, that being only accidental to Beauty, which consists wholly in Proportion and Symmetry? The Old *Statues* in Black *Marble*, are as much, if not more, valued than those in White. Besides, the Curse upon *Cham's* account must have turn'd many of the *Asiaticks*,

and all the *Egyptians* into *Negroes*; for they were Curs'd more peculiarly than the *Western remote Coasts of Africa*.

This Colour (which appears to be as Ingenite, and as Original as that in *Whites*) could not proceed from any Accident, because when Animals are Accidentally Black, they do not Procreate constantly Black ones (as the *Negroes* do) as in Dogs, Cows, Sheep, and in some Birds; Accidental Colours vary in the same Numerical Subject by changes of Seasons, of Diet, of Culture, &c. but a *Negro* will always be a *Negro*, carry him to *Greenland*, give him Chalk, Feed and Manage him never so many ways.

Constantia Semina Rerum.

THE

THE SECOND
ESSAY,
CONCERNING

The Rise, Progress, and Destruction of Fables and Romances.
With the State of Learning.

TH E bare , naked , or simple way of Instructing by Precept, being found jejune and nauseous, a mixture of *Fable* was therefore thought necessary to sweeten and allure the minds of men, naturally Superstitious and Credulous ; which kind of *Philosophy* was first made use of amongst the *Eastern Nations*, the *Hebrews* themselves not excepted. Hence 'tis that

the

the Oldest Books are *Mythological*, as *Æsop*, *Homer*, *Hesiod*, *Orpheus*, &c. This Fabulous way of Writing pass'd from the Poets to the Schools and Theaters. *Sed diligenter intuere has Nanius, quantum sub illis utilitatem reperies, nec aliud quidquam per fabellas queritur, quam corrigatur Error ut mortalium, acutaque se se diligens industria.* Phœdrus.

In *Herodotus* and *Diodorus Siculus*, there are many *Fictions*, but invented only for want of *Truth*; such are the imaginary *Originals* of most Nations. &c. but the true sort of *History* is judiciously distinguish'd by *Diodorus*, from the *Mythological* or *Fabulous*; such as is all that before the *Trojan War*.

Strabo affirms, That the Histories of the *Persians*, *Medes*, and *Syrians*, deserve little Credit; the inventors of *Fables* were in such vogue and esteem, that all their *Writers* followed the *Romantick* vein, which had reign'd long in *Egypt*.

These seeds of *Fiction* being transplant-ed into *Greece*, found the soil very fertile and luxuriant. The Greeks addicted to *Poetry* and *Invention*, ran all upon *Figures*, *Allegories*, *Fables*, and *Parables*. The *Egyptians* before had taught them the

the *Mysterious way under Hieroglyphicks*, under masks and disguises, which make up their *Mythologick Theology*. The Tales told by the *Egyptian Priests* to *Pythagoras*, *Plato*, and other *Greeks*, fail'd not to tickle their curiosity and passion of novelty. *Gracia Mendax* —.

The Sacred Authors themselves complied with this Humour of *Parables* and *Fictions*, the Holy Scripture being altogether *Mysterious, Allegorical and Enigmatical*; and our *Saviour* himself gave his Precepts under this veil. The *Talmud* contains Millions of *Fables*, every one more impertinent than another. The *Arabians* excelled the *Hebrews* in *Metaphors*, *Similitudes*, and *Fictions*, of which their *Alcoran* is a proof, as well as their numerous Troops of *Poets*, which afterwards infected *Spain* and *Provence*, with *Rhodomantade* and *Knight-Errantry*, *Giants*, *Dragons*, *Enchanted Castles*, and such like acts of *Chivalry*.

From these fountains the Christian *Monks* drunk in the art of Lying, and composing of *Legends*; but they did not tell their *Tales* so finely as the *Greeks* and the *Orientalis*. They imitate the *Sibyls* and the *Oracles* in their Cells and *Hermittages*, though not in the Wisdom or
Cunning

Cunning of their Precepts and Doctrines; which yet Tully himself spoke contemptibly of. *Quid verò habet Autoritatis furor iste, quem divinum vocamus, ut, quæ sapiens non videat, ea videat insanus, & Is, qui humanos sensus amiserit, divinos affectus sit? Sibyllæ versus observamus, quos illa furens fudisse dicitur —.* De Divinat. How long was it inculcated up and down that the Devil spoke in the Oracles, and that they were all silenced at our Saviour's coming, till *D. van Dale* prov'd the contrary beyond all controversie and dispute. *V. Dissert. de Oraculis, Eorumque duratione & Authoribus.* 8^{vo} Amstelodam, 1683.

I might give here an account of the famous *Eddas*, which relates the wonderful achievements of *Woden* and his Wife *Frigga* (whose names we still retain in our *Wednesday* and *Friday*. See *Verstegan*) with the rest of our Gothic Ancestors; a Book which for Antiquity might contend with *Homer*, and as Fabulous as the best.

What Stories and Tales have we of *Brute*, of *Arthur*, and *Merlin*? every Province had their *Romancers*, their *Srolers*, and *Fable-Mongers*; the whole world was over-run with Lyes, and the Fictions of these Practitioners. The

The Eastern Nations at this very day retain their old Gust for Fabulous Inventions, Astrological Cheats, Juglers, Songsters, and lying Mountebanks. They affect still the old *Oriental Rhodomontade*, which made up the prophane Learning of the Gentiles, and was sanctified even in Syria it self: The Sacred Writers complying with the pulse of the Jews, made use of Fictions and Parables to express their Inspirations; therefore our *Holy Scripture*, in the Judgment of our best Criticks, *Grotius, Father Simon, Le Clerc, &c.* is altogether Mysterious, Allegorical, and Enigmatical. The *Talmudists* believed that the Book of *Job* is no other but a *Parable* of the Invention of the *Hebrews*; the *Psalms of David, the Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, the Canticles,* and other *Holy Songs*, are Poetical Works, abounding with Figures, which would seem bold and violent in our Writings, and which are ordinary in those of that Nation. The Book of *Canticles* is a kind of *Dramatick Poem*, where the Passions of the Bridegroom and Spouse are painted after a tender and touching manner. In the Book of *Ruth*,

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and in the 23d Chapter of *Ezekiel* there are many wanton and lascivious expressions; insomuch that *Joseph Scaliger* was wont to say, that his reading of *Aristophanes*, *Catullus*, *Tibullus*, *Propertius*, *Ovid*, and other such Authors, did very much enlighten him in the Interpretation of the *Scriptures*; in which there are many things Divinely said, above the pitch of *Poets* or *Philosophers*.

I thought to have proceeded with *Prodigies* and *Prophecies*, and with a History of *Enthusiasm*; but I find Dr. *Spencer*, the late Master of *Bennet College* in *Cambridge*, has so ingeniously and fully handled the first, and *Meric Casaubon* the latter, that a *Genius* much higher than mine will scarcely attempt to come after them. I will only remark here once for all, That men in former days that knew and performed above the ordinary level, were suspected of *Magick*; and therefore the Learned *Naudens* wrote an *Apology* for all the Wise Men who have unjustly been reputed *Magicians*, from the Creation to the present Age; and indeed it is to be wish'd that some Able Pen would do the like for the many *Sagacious Litterati*,

men, who are at this day most inhumanly accus'd of *Atheism*, because they search, and find, and hunt a little out of the common field, or do not run headlong in the high road.

Pessima res est errorum Apotheosis, & pro peste intellectus habenda est, si uanis accedit Veneratio. Bacon. Nov. Organ.

*Tam magna penuria Mentis ubique,
In rugae tam prona Via est —
Et sic Observatio crescit
Ex Atavis quondam male capta, deinde
sequitur
Tradita temporibus, serisque Nepotibus
aucta.*

Prudent. in Symach.

To this *Essay* of Fables and Romances, the History of Demonology, doth properly belong, with all the terrible troops of Spirits and Witches; but I find this Part is so Judiciously and Learnedly Treated of by our Countryman Mr. Hobbs in that Book of his *Leviathan*, called the *Kingdom of Darkness*; and lately by Dr. Becker of Amsterdam,

sterdam in Four Tomes, called *Le Monde Enchanteé*, that my labour will be all lost, and would only prove dull repetition; therefore I hasten to the end and destruction of them in these Western Parts of the World, by what steps it was brought on, and how happily finished.

The most early strokes, we meet with, are in *Dante*, *Petrach*, and *Boccace*, in *Chaucer*, and *Wiclef*; afterwards upon the taking of *Constantinople* the exil'd *Grecians* fled into *Italy*, where under the wings of *Lorenzo de Medici*, found Learning and good Sense began to hatch and creep abroad, foster'd and fed by that *Illustrious Family*, cultivated by those excellent Wits, *Poggius*, *Aretinus*, *Valla*, *Gaza*, *Hermolaus Barbarus*, *Angelus Politianus*, and others, who flourished between 1400 and 1500.

The *Art of Printing* being invented about 1442, and spread up and down *Europe* by 1480 and 1490, and afterwards improved and advanced to perfection from 1500 to 1600, under

under the care and exquisite Judgments of the Aldi, the Stephanii, the Frobenij, Commelin, Plantine, and others; the Rays of new Light began to dart abroad, and our Hemisphere to be all illuminated.

Reuchlin, Erasmus, Palingenius, Buchanan, &c. dispell'd the Mist of Monkishness, and a sort of Reformation appeared in glimmerings and flashes.

The mighty Genius of Francis the First, sprung up about this time, and with his Royal cloak covered the naked Muses: Hobgoblins and Phantomes fled at the rising of this Star, which soon grew up to be the Sun and Glory of Letters, the Father of true Knowledge, and the Patron of Arts and Sciences; in his Reign we read of the Bellay's, the Chastel's, Budaeus, Raberlaus, Julius Scaliger, Gyllius, Bellonius, Gesner, Rondeletius, and many other Eminent Men, who carried Learning up to a great height.

In the beginning of this last Century, England had the Honour and Felicity

Felicity to produce my *Lord Bacon*,
 a Man of wonderful Invention and
 Fertility in vast Designs ; he saw the
 Greeks and Romans had spun *Humi-*
nity to its utmost Fineness and Per-
 fection, which laid buried many Ages
 under *Gothick Ruins* and *Monkish Rubbish* ;
 he saw the Restoration of this *An-*
cient Civility and *Politeness*, and ob-
 served the *Belle Lettre* to reassume
 its utmost strength in *Joseph Scaliger*,
 and *Isaac Casaubon* ; therefore he
 drew another *Plan*, and laid the
 foundation of a *New Experimental Learn-*
ing upon the Observations of Sense and
 Matter of Fact ; which hath been
 since prosecuted in the *Mathematicks*,
 the *Mechanicks*, *Natural* and *Physical*
History, with a happy success in most
 parts of *Europe*. 'Tis therefore that
 the present Age affords so much of
 real Knowledge, and will not endure
 empty Notions, and vain Speculations,
 which had so long amus'd and va-
 poured the *World* : We presently call
 for clear Proof, Fact, or ocular De-
 monstration : What Improvements in
 all the parts of Life might not be
 expected from such sound *Principles*,

if we had a *Richelieu* or a *Colbert* to put the Springs and Wheels in motion? For want of such a fund, the *True Philosophy* begins to degenerate and dwindle into *Gossiping*, into *Tale-telling*, into *Fests*, into *Romantick Hypotheses*, and idle *Whimsies*: *Nubes pro Junone.*

POSTSCRIPT.

MY LORD,

I Thought to have troubled Your Lordship no further at present, my Temper disposing me to speak little, and write short ; but observing in many late Authors a false method of making General and Universal Conclusions from some Particulars, I could not but take notice of it in this place, because Your Lordship has a true Logical Head, and a sound way of Reasoning.

Some Writers, because they find Shells on the Shoars, to be the Spoils or Exuvia of Sea-Animals, and Plants at Land to rise from Seed ; therefore they conclude, That all other Shells, or Shell-stones resembling them, must come from the same place, and all Vegetables be produced in the same manner ; so they affirm all Insects to be Generated by Animal Putrefaction,

rents, because they observe some to proceed from *Eggs*; as though *Nature*, or the *Almighty Governor* of the *Universe*, must be confined in all the various mysterious ways of *Generation*, to their singular or narrow Caprice, founded upon a few particular Observations.

Many Crustaceous and Testaceous Animals are peculiar to Lakes, Rivers, Thickets, Caves, Rocks, Beds of Mud and Sand, of which many *Species* are unknown to us at this day; and perhaps the Land, or Fresh-water Shells may be as numerous as those at Sea; therefore we need not fetch all our Subterraneous *Shell-Stones* from the Ocean; but I see no Contradiction or Absurdity in *Nature* in ascribing the Origine of *These* resembling Marine Shells, to the *Plastic Power* (or call it what *Principle* you please) of the Earth; the same may be said of the *Subterraneous Vegetables*; for this way of explicating these *Appearances* is not attended with half so many or great difficulties, as that of bringing them in by an *Universal Dissolution of the Earth at the Deluge*.

Shells, or Testaceous figured Bodies, may be Generated in Beds of Earth, or Stone, as easily as Animals or Plants

G them.

themselves, which are sometimes found alive upon the breaking of Rocks and Stones asunder, into which neither Water, nor Air, nor Animal Parent, nor Seed could have any ingress; especially if we suppose with the late Author of the *Essay towards a Natural History of the Earth, &c.* that Quarries, or the Strata of Stone, were formed upon the Settlement of our *Globe*, when dissevered and taken all to pieces in the *Flood*.

Men conversant in Medical Observations, and Anatomical History, observe great variety of Stones curiously Figured and Coloured, as also wonderful diversity of Worms and other Insects, to be daily formed in the Bodies of Animals, especially in the Gall, Bladders, Stomachs, and Glands; but they meet with insuperable difficulties when they attempt to bring them into the *Microcosm* they know not what ways, nor from what places. So the *Subterraneous Speculators* viewing Testaceous and other Animal and Vegetable-like Bodies in the Bowels of the greater world, are forc'd upon the rack when they endeavour to fetch 'em in from strange places. The safest way is to take the nearest cause, and to explicate *Nature* by her immediate steps and ap-

appearances ; as Aristotle did very judiciously upon this occasion : *Testacea interdum sponte ē limo proveniunt, alia ex alio; ostrea in carbono, concha & que suprā diximus in Sabuloſo; circa Saxorum cava Papille ſex Tethya, Balani ſen Glandes, & que per ſumma adhaerent, ut Lepades ſen Patella, & Nerita.*

Neither are *Shell-like Bodies* sometimes thus Propagated, but *Vegetables* themſelves, which will often spring up pleatifully in Countries where they never grew before, even out of the Trunks of Trees, out of Stones, and on the tops of the highest places. What *Myriads* of *Infusaria* are produced upon Steeping Pepper in Rain-water ? And shall we wonder to see *Shell-stones*, *Teeth*, and other *Bone-like figured Bodies* in the Bowels of the Earth, when we find the ſame, if not greater, Wonders in our own *Bodies*, and in thoſe of *Quadrupeds*, *Birds*, and *Fiſhes*; as *Teeth* in *Abscesses*, perfect *Shells* in *Glands*, *Bezoar* in *Stomachs*, *Testaceons* or *Laminated ſtones* in the internal parts of *Crustaceous* and *Finned Fiſhes*, as alſo in *naked Snails*, beſides curious varieties of *Inſects* in many parts of moſt Animals ? Of which Physical Causes may be alſigned, without taking the *Microcoſis* all

to pieces in order to bring them in, vi & Armis, by dissolving all that stands in their way.

'Tis hard to conceive how such innumerable Aquatick Animals should be destroyed by a Deluge of their own Element; St. Austin knew better things, *Animalia, qua in Aquis vivere possunt, Diluvij plaga non tetigit, hec enim terrena tantum mortificavit*; for God inflicted this punishment only upon the Earth and its Creatures. Why so many Millions of Fishes Bones and Integuments to be entomb'd in Graves or Beds, perhaps a 1000 Miles below the surface of the Earth, under Layers of Stones and Marble, where they are said to fall or sink by their specifick Gravity, during the General Dissolution of the Earth by the Deluge.

Moses seems to be of a different Opinion from the Writer of the late Essay (who he pretends to corroborate and support the Mosaic System) for Moses gives a plain and clear Relation of the Mountain standing firm and entire during the whole Scene of that Action; read the 7th, and 8th. Chapter of Genesis; and if the Hills continued in their Antidiluvian state, I do not see how so many Millions of Shells, Teeth, and other Bones of Sea Animals,

Animals, together with such numbers of *Antidiluvian Vegetables*, could possibly be buried so deep in the *Entrails* of our *Planet*, fortified and encompassed with *Arches of Metallick Mines and Quarries*. If the *Ocean* did overflow the whole *Globe* (against which many Batteries have been rais'd by the greatest Scholars of this Island, *Isaac Vossius* and the present *Learned Bishop of Worcester*) and brought along with it many Marine Bodies out of their natural Site or Beds : then 'tis probable that the same fluid *Principle*, or *Mass*, might have rouled them back again from whence it had driven them ; for the Sea is said to return to its primæval Channel immediately after the work was over, so it might have carried them back again as easily as it rouz'd them at first from their native Depths, or Marine Scituations.

Sir John Narborongh in his Voyage to *Chili*, observ'd in several Cliffs and Hills on the Coasts of *Patagonia*, lumps of *Oyster Shells* buried up and down at Land ; yet he could never find any *Oysters* in those Seas, though he had Sounded most of the Ports of *Southern America*. Every body knows that this *Shell-Fish* always breeds near the Shoars ; so

so that flying to the deep can be no subterfuge here.

In Europe many *shell-stones*, or *Fossil shells*, as also *subterraneous Vegetables* are found, which are not to be match'd either at Sea or Land; to fancy them in dark and remote Parts of the Ocean, seems but a weak evasion; and because some may be sampled at Sea, therefore all must come from thence, is not a very sound Conclusion.

Several *Authors* have attempted to prove the *Strata*, or Layers of our *Globe*, to proceed from the several *Sediments* of the *Universal Deluge*; and that the *Lapis Judaicus*, the *Astroites*, or *Star-stone Columns* (of which there are some of enormous Dimensions) the *Bufonites* or *Toadstone*, the *Glossopetra*, and *Cornua Ammonis* (though nothing like it at Sea) are really the Teeth, Spines, Bones, and other parts of *Sea-Animals*, left behind in the Bowels of the Earth by the *General Flood*. But, I think, all these *Ingenious Writers* have stronger Fancies than Judgments, and a meaner Opinion of the Invention, Art, and Power of *Nature*, then she deserves; for any common

common *Observer* must find *Her* to vary and sport in nothing so much as in the Figures, Textures, Shootings, and Growths of *Fossils*.

The common Problem, That a Solid included within a Solid, must of necessity pre-exist before the external or including Solid, is notoriously false from the daily Generation of new Solids and new Animals (as Ferruginous and Testaceous Stones, as also various Insects) within the Solid parts of several Bodies : Neither doth this necessarily induce any fortuitous or æquivocal Generation, though the latter may, perhaps, sometimes be brought about in the imperfect kinds of Animals, by the same power that intends over and governs the *Univocal Generation* of Insects ; for that *Powersful Principle* is not limited to one single plastick Method, seeing Matter is capable of all Forms.

Jovis Omnia plena.

F I N I S.